

HIV/AIDS and African American Adolescents

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What is HIV/AIDS

HIV- Human Immunodeficiency Virus

AIDS- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

HIV can progress into AIDS

Once you are infected with HIV it's a life long disease. Unlike other viruses there is still no cure but scientist are working on finding a cure.

HOW IS HIV/AIDS CONTRACTED?

- ❖ Having unprotected sexual intercourse with someone that is infected with the disease
 - ❖ Anal
 - ❖ Vaginal
 - ❖ Oral- Fellatio
- ❖ Infected Mother to child
 - ❖ Breastfeeding
 - ❖ During birth
 - ❖ During Pregnancy
- ❖ Intravenous drug use with an infected person





DOES THE RISKS VARY BY ETHNICITY?

According to the Center for Disease and Prevention Control, (CDC) the factors for the transmission of HIV/AIDS applies to all races and ethnicities. However, some people are more vulnerable than others.

High Risk

- ❖ Depends on where the individual resides
- ❖ Socioeconomic status- Poverty equals less quality care
- ❖ Lack of Education on the disease
- ❖ Misinformation on the disease

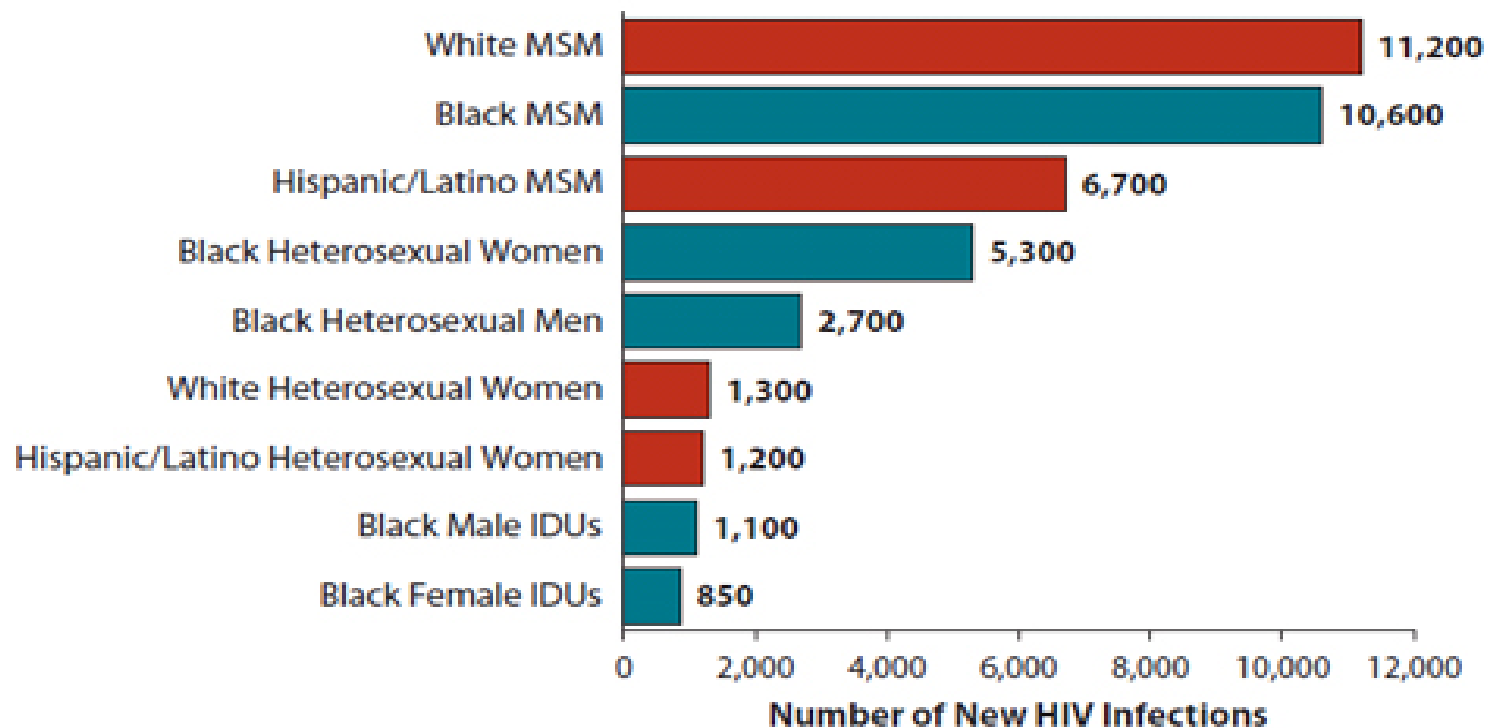
Statistics from CDC

African Americans represent 12% to 14% of the US population in 2010 but they accounted for 44% of the most recent HIV cases among adults and adolescents (ages 13 and older) as reported by the CDC

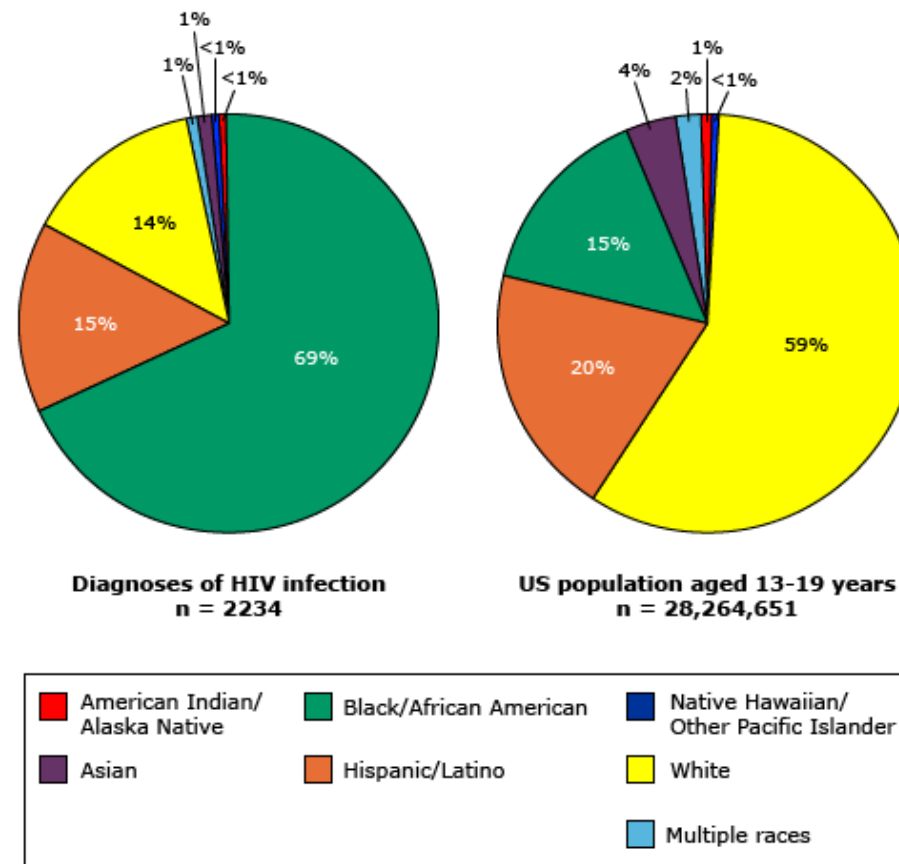


Cont'd Statistics

Estimates of New HIV infections in the US for the Most Affected Sub-population (CDC, 2010)

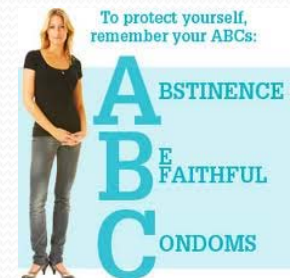


Diagnoses of HIV infection and population among adolescents 13 to 19 years of age, by race/ethnicity, United States, 2010 - 46 states (CDC)



How can adolescents protect themselves?

- ❖ If you are having sex use a condom
- ❖ Abstain from sexual activities or have one partner
- ❖ Intravenous drug users should not share needles
- ❖ Wear gloves if you come in contact with any bodily fluid such as semen, blood etc
- ❖ Get tested for HIV/AIDS



DIETSMANN SAFETY CAMPAIGN

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HIV

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

- ALWAYS USE A CONDOM WHEN HAVING SEX
- NEVER SHARE NEEDLES OR SYRINGES
- YOU CANNOT GET HIV FROM KISSING, SPITTING, SCRATCHING, SITTING OR SHARING UTENSILS

SYMPTOMS AFTER INFECTION:

- AFTER 10 DAYS: FEVER, RASH, SEVERE SORE THROAT
- AFTER YEARS: YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM BREAKS DOWN, LEAVING YOU VULNERABLE TO ALL KINDS OF DISEASES

IF IN DOUBT, TAKE A FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL TEST. IF YOU ARE HIV POSITIVE, START TREATMENT AND TAKE THE RIGHT STEPS TO PREVENT PASSING THE VIRUS ON TO OTHERS.

YOU ONLY HAVE ONE LIFE. KEEP IT HEALTHY!

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Overall thoughts

The African American community is most affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It is imperative that we educate our black adolescents in order for them to be aware of the dangers of this terrible disease. Since many of them are plagued with this disease. Moreover, once you have this disease it's for a lifetime since there is no cure. Having HIV/AIDS doesn't mean your life is over due to numerous developments in medical science.

References

- ❖ Fact sheet *CDC*, Retrieved December 5th 2013, from <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/raciaethnic/aa/facts/>
- ❖ Fact Sheet, *CDC*, Retrieved December 5th 2013, from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/2012/CD-C-AA-Youth-0612-508.pdf>
- ❖ HIV among African Americans. (2013). *CDC*. Retrieved December 4th 2013, from http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk_HIV_AAA.pdf